

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: April 23, 2014

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Location: James Room, Sadler Center

Presiding Officer: Nabeel Siddiqui, President

The meeting of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by the President.

Menuka Ban, Chair of the Advisory Board Representative Sub-committee, reports that the sub-committee decided to allow both master's and Ph.D. students to act as representatives to the Advisory Board. In order to solve the problem of allowing for the inclusion of departments that only have master's programs, the sub-committee proposes that any student can be nominated, even incoming master's students. For the upcoming Fall term, one representative will begin a two-year term, and the other will begin a one-year term, so that eventually the terms can be staggered in length.

Regarding Advisory Board nominations, the GSA president will determine how much time is required to train the representatives before the first meeting in October. It will be left to the President's discretion to decide when to send out information about the election. Students eligible for nominations include all graduate students in arts and sciences. Post-doctoral researchers are not eligible. All members of the GSA have the ability to nominate graduate students for the position, and to vote on the nominees.

The duties and responsibilities have been outlined exactly as Dean Torczon told us when she was attended the last GSA meeting. The Advisory Board Representative will not have any voting rights in the GSA. The Representative will, however, be required to attend all GSA meetings so that he or she can serve as a liaison between the GSA and the Advisory Board. The Representative will be required to give the GSA a report before and after each Advisory Board meeting, and to give the Advisory Board a report from the GSA. These requirements will be strictly enforced. If the position needs to be filled in the middle of the semester, the GSA President can select any graduate student to fill this position, and the GSA Board will approve the selection.

Nabeel proposes that GSA officers from both this year and next will vote on the acceptance of the sub-committee's recommendations. The proposal is passed unanimously.

Jake Durham, a student at the Public Policy School, has been nominated for Student Senate Representative. A vote is taken, and Jake is recognized as the incoming Student Senate Representative.

Summer Moore, Secretary, gave a report about a recent meeting with Steve Otto and Kathy Larrieu regarding improvements to the GSA website. Steve and Kathy have offered to serve as our "helpdesk" should we run into any problems achieving what we want to with the website. They recommended that we focus more clearly what we want the website to be "about"; in our discussions, we decided that we want the website, like GSA, to serve as a resource for grad students to navigate resources and regulations, as well as to provide opportunities for social and academic networking. Several formatting changes to the website were proposed, which Summer will plan on completing over the summer. Organizing new content for the website would be a good project to collaborate on next year.

Christian Bale, incoming President, suggests that we include photos and profiles about the GSA officers.

Sean Koebley, Social Chair, thanks for everybody who helped out with the volleyball cookout. It was very fun! Pictures were taken, which we can use next year. On May 7, we plan to buy some appetizers at a bar. Emails with more information will follow. The VIMS Fish Fry is this Friday. He encourages everyone to attend and asks whether anybody would be willing to travel together in a William and Mary van.

Sean also gives the Parking report. Another meeting was held today. Through the Bike Initiative on campus, four fix-it stations will be added. The Parking Advisory Committee is working on improving communications and has made that a goal for next year. He put together a FAQ for grad students for buying decals, etc., and he would like to make that available.

Christian Bale thanks the Travel Funds Committee for their work in ranking applicants.

Nabeel officially transitions to Christian. GSA's new officers will officially take their positions at this time. Thank you for this past year and for allowing me to be your President.